

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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The President Offers Mediation

On August 4th the president sent the following offer of mediation to the emperors of Germany and Austria, the czar of Russia, the king of Great Britain, and the president of France:

"As official head of one of the powers signatory to the Hague convention, I feel it to be my privilege and my duty under article III of that convention to say to you, in a spirit of most earnest friendship, that I should welcome an opportunity to act in the interest of European peace, either now or at any other time that might be thought more suitable as an occasion to serve you and all concerned in a way that would afford me lasting cause for gratitude and happiness."

It may be some time before the nations engaged in the European war will be willing to listen to any suggestion of mediation, but the president, in tendering the good offices of this government at this time, has measured up to the responsibilities of the nation and to the expectations of the American people. The United States stands for peace—for its preservation as long as it can possibly be preserved—and, in case of war, it stands for the restoration of peace at the earliest possible moment. When the anger of the belligerent nations has sufficiently abated, they will find the president waiting to render such assistance as may be within his power in the direction of accommodation and conciliation. He has sent the dove out of the ark in search of dry land—God speed its return with the olive leaf!

W. J. BRYAN.

ENLARGING OUR MERCHANT MARINE

The president is wise in urging the enlargement of our merchant marine by the purchase of foreign built ships. There never was any good reason for withholding the American flag from ships built abroad—it was a part of the protection system, and ought to be abandoned as the system is being abandoned.

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THE ROLL OF HONOR

List of Nations That Have Entered Into New Peace Treaties With The United States

Salvador	Costa Rica
Guatemala	Dominican
Panama	Republic
Honduras	Venezuela
Nicaragua	Italy
Netherlands	Norway
Bolivia	Uruguay
Portugal	Brazil
Persia	Argentina
Denmark	Chile
Switzerland	

"Watchful Waiting" Wins in Mexico

VOTE FOR STRINGER

The progressive democrats of Illinois have endorsed Congressman Stringer for the United States senate, and every democrat who believes in democracy as interpreted and applied by President Wilson, should support him. Every corruptionist in the democratic party in that state will support Sullivan, and so will all whom the corruptionists can influence. There will be no division among the reactionaries, the venerated republicans and the representatives of the predatory interests,—they all want Sullivan in the senate "to steady the boat," as he puts it. There should be no division in the ranks of those who oppose the special interests. Governor Dunne, Senator Lewis, and Mayor Harrison are for Congressman Stringer. Let every progressive democrat vote at the primaries, and he should vote for Stringer.

W. J. BRYAN.

President Underwood of the Erie railroad doesn't think much of this constant talk about the high cost of living. He says that he believes in the high cost of living. Mr. Underwood is not compelled to work for \$2 or \$3 a day. If he had he might change his belief.

Ex-President Roosevelt says that President Wilson's foreign policy is a "disgrace." Well, there is something to be said of a policy that preserves peace. Could the ex-president keep out of this European war if he were president?

The statesmen who have been arguing in favor of a big navy as a "preventive" will have a hard time explaining why the big navies of Europe did not prevent the present war.

Epoch-Making Peace Treaties

The twenty treaties have been ratified by the United States senate and are epoch-making. They provide for investigation IN ALL CASES. The contracting nations agree NOT TO DECLARE war or BEGIN HOSTILITIES until the investigation is completed (the investigation not to extend beyond one year without special agreement) but reserve the right to act independently AFTER the report is made.

The commission is a permanent one and represents five nations. The method of selection and other details will be found in another part of this issue.

This plan, upon which the secretary of state, by the authority of the president, has been working for more than a year, will go far to make war impossible. One more treaty has been signed, but has not yet reached Washington, and several more, including Great Britain, France and China, are agreed upon. Let the lovers of peace rejoice!

W. J. BRYAN.

A CONTRAST

The old world and the new present a striking contrast just now. The war spirit is aroused in the east, and Europe is an armed camp; nearly all the countries of the new world are, at the same time, entering into peace treaties which provide for a year's investigation before war can be declared.

It is wonderful with what coolness and indifference the greater part of mankind see war commenced. Those that hear of it at a distance, or read of it in books, but have never presented its evils to their minds, consider it as little more than a splendid game, a proclamation, an army, a battle and a triumph. Some, indeed, must perish in the most successful field, but they die upon the bed of honor, "re-sign their lives, amidst the joys of conquest, and, filled with England's glory, smile in death." The life of a modern soldier is ill-represented by heroic fiction. War has means of destruction more formidable than the cannon and the sword. Of the thousands and ten thousands that perished in our late contests with France and Spain, a very small part ever felt the stroke of an enemy; the rest languished in tents and ships, amidst damps and putrefaction; pale, torpid, spiritless and helpless; gasping and groaning, unpitied among men made obdurate by long continuance of hopeless misery; and they were at last whelmed in pits, or heaved into the ocean, without notice and without remembrance. By incommodious encampments and unwholesome stations, where courage is useless, and enterprise impracticable, fleets are silently dispeopled, and armies sluggishly melted away.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.